FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) President of India is the appointing authority for the Physicians. Deputy Director, C.G.H.S. is the appointing authority of Pharmacists.

(b) Yes, since appointment of Physicians is made through U.P.S.C. on All India basis their seniority is fixed by UPSC themselves and as such, the seniority is maintained on All India basis, whereas the Pharmacists are recruited by the respective Units of CGHS through the Local Employment Exchange of the city. As such their seniority is maintained city-wise.

Upgradation of CGHS Units to Dispensaries

688. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the status of C.G.H.S. Units to C.G.H.S. Dispensaries in various systems of Medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the upgradation is likely to be affected by C.G.H.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Medical/Paramedical Sanctioned Staff in CGHS Units in Delhi

689. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the medical and paramedical sanctioned staff strength for C.G.H.S. Units of various system of medicines in Delhi;

(b) whether in C.G.H.S. Homoeopathic unit, South Avenue, New Delhi the staff posted is more than the sanctioned strength; and

(c) if so, the reasons for putting more staff than the sanctioned strength in one unit, ignoring the other unit in respect of increasing the staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The sanctioned staff strength in accordance with the adopted norm of ISM and Homoeopathic units is as under:—

(i) Physician.....2

(ii) Pharmacist cum-Clerk.....1

(iii) Class IV.....1

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. One Pharmacist-cum-Clerk and one Safaiwala are posted for the time being at CGHS unit, South Avenue over and above the sanctioned strength.

Facilities provided to war widows

690. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what facilities have been provided by Government to war widows in the matter of pension, education, employment, medical care, housing etc;

(b) whether there is any welfare fund for the war widows if so, which authority monitors the spending of the funds so as to avoid its misuse and what is the periodicity of the audit of funds, if any, stating when the funds were audited last and the nature of the irregularities, if any, found in its operation; and

(c) whether voluntary organisations are also given grants for welfare of war widows; if so, what is the basis on which funds are given to the voluntary organisation and the manner in which the grants are monitored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) The required information is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(b) There is no Welfare Fund exclusively for the war widows. However, assistance to the war widows is rendered out of the 'Amalgamated Special Fund for War Bereaved, War Disabled and other Ex-servicemen/ Serving Personnel' administered by the Kendriya Sainik Board. The expenditure out of the Fund is monitored by a Managing Committee under the Chairmanship of the Raksha Mantri. The accounts of the Fund are audited annually. Fund accounts for and upto the year 1987-88 have been audited by a firm of Chartered Accountants and no irregularities in its operation have been indicated.

(c) Normally voluntary organisations are not given grants out of the welfare funds administered by the Kendriya Sainik Board. However, the War Widows Association, New Delhi have been given certain adhoc grants for specific purposes to help their activities related to training and rehabilitation of war widows and dependents of ex-servicemen.

Statement

The War widows are entitled to the following facilities in respect of pension, education, employment, medical care and housing:—

(i) *Pension*:

Liberalised pensionary benefits for battle casualties occurring on or after 11-1-1986 are as follows:—

(a) Family pension at the rate of last pay drawn till death or disqualification.

(b) Family gratuity at the specified rates ranging between Rs. 2,000/- and Rs. 19,000/-; and

(c) Death gratuity as under:

Less than one years' service	2 months' pay
Between 1—5 years' service	6 months' pay
Over 5 years but below 20 years of service	12 months' pay
20 years' service or over	1 month's pay for every completed year of service subject to a maximum of 33 months' pay or Rupees one lakh, whichever is less.

(ii) *Education Concessions*:—

The Department of Education, Government of India, vide their letter No. 17-19/79-Schools II dated 24-1-1972, as amended, granted educational concessions to the children of defence personnel killed or permanently disabled in the Indo-Pak Conflict of December 1971. These concessions were later extended to the children of personnel involved in the Indo-China Hostilities of 1962, Indo-Pak Conflict of 1965 and more recently to the children of defence personnel of the Indian Peace Keepig Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka who have been killeld

or wounded. Under these orders, the following concessions are admissible in respect of students studying/admitted to the Educational Institutions under the Department of Education or financed by the Department of Education:—

(a) Complete exemption from tuition and other fees levied by the educational institutions concerned (including charges levied for the school bus maintained by the school and actual fares paid for railway pass for students or bus fare certified by Head of Institution);

(b) Grants to meet hostel charges in full for those studying in boarding schools and colleges;

(c) Full cost of books and stationery; and

(d) Full cost of uniforms where this is compulsory.

(iii) *Employment*:—

Dependants i.e. son|daughter|near relative of Defence personel who die in harness are eligible to be provided with suitable Group 'C' or Group 'D' civil appointments, on compassionate grounds without registration in employment exchanges subject to fulfilment of age and educational standards prescribed for the posts. In addition, upto two members each of the families of Defence personnel killed in service are given priority IIA in employment exchanges for Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts.

(iv) *Medical Care*:—

The families of deceased service personnel drawing pension are entitled to free medical treatment from Armed Forces Hospitals.

(v) *Housing*:—

Housing being a State subject, most of the States and Union Territories have reserved certain percentage of houses/house sites for allotment to widows and ex-servicemen. War widows are given priority over other entitled categories.

Change in the methodology for determining the poverty line

691. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rise in the urban and rural poverty as per the recent evaluation, if any;

(b) whether it is a fact that the existing methodology based on the National Sample Survey data for determining the poverty line is outdated and needs a change; and

(c) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The percentage of persons living below poverty line in Rural and Urban areas as per survey of 1983-84 were 40.4 per cent and 28.1 per cent respectively. Subsequently, data on Household Consumer Expenditure have been collected through 42nd and 43rd round of National Sample Survey for the years 1986-87 and 1987-88. These data are being processed. Indications are that percentages of people living below poverty line will come down both in urban and rural areas.

(b) and (c) A Study group on the "Concepts and Estimation of poverty line" was set up to examine and recommend any necessary revision in the definition of poverty line for use in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

After examining various steps on concepts and data availability for determining poverty line it was decided by the Group to use the same methodology as was used at the time of the Sixth Five Year Plan based on the Report of "Task Force on Projections of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand."